



Mercia Primary Academy Trust

Value for Money Statement

Academy Trust Name – Mercia Primary Academy Trust
Academy Trust Company Number – 08748904
Year ended 31st August 2020

I accept that as accounting officer of Mercia Primary Academy Trust I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources.

I am aware of the guide to academy value for money statements published by the Education Funding Agency and understand that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received from the ESFA.

I set out below how I have ensured that the academy trusts' use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

Our Aim - Everyone is valued and shares responsibility for the challenging learning that takes place

Through partnership between Governors, staff, parents, pupils, external partners and the local community, the Academy Trust will provide the facilities, resources and vision to enable the Academy to flourish and provide pupils with the best possible education.

Improvement focusses identified for this year included:

- Reading
- Broad and Balanced curriculum
- Creation of Learning Networks
- Reaching out to other local schools who may wish to join the Trust.
- Ensure the safety of all children and staff through a national pandemic
- To provide a consistent education whilst managing Covid 19.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The strategic goals of the academy trust are:

1. To provide high quality education provision for all academies within the academy trust that improve the outcomes of all of our pupils. This will be achieved by providing appropriate and proportionate support and challenge each academy within the academy trust. There will be a focus on:
 - Establish and monitoring a system of governance through effective academy committees.
 - Providing intervention to support school improvement.
 - Developing collaborative curriculum activities to support key skill development, increasing independence and vocational/work-related learning.
 - Developing monitoring and evaluating strategies and procedures that will drive school improvement.
 - Supporting the procurement of best value central services.
 - Collaboratively sharing and supporting best practice.

2. To provide the same high quality of education provision to pupils outside of the trust to help achieve the government's aim of the same standard of education for all children. This will be achieved by:
 - Developing a systematic marketing strategy and work with local stakeholders, Headteacher forums and the DfE to identify potential schools and academies that wish to join the academy trust.
 - Build capacity by creating a robust management structure which involves building a central team to support the board of trustees.
 - Develop training based on the expertise within the academy trust that can be delivered to other education providers.

Develop more effective means on collaboration with other education providers to share best practice and encourage

Public Benefit

Mercia Primary Academy Trust is approved by the Department of Education (DfE) and funded wholly by the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to further the education of pupils admitted under the requirements set by the ESFA Funding Agreement with the admission of pupils without fee. Parents are able to apply for their children to be admitted in accordance with these requirements. Governors ensure that applications are considered appropriately.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commissioner's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the academy trust objective and aims and in planning future activities for the period. The trustees consider that the academy trust can clearly demonstrate that its aims are to advance education for public benefit.

Both Lark Hall Infant Academy and Flax Hill Junior Academy received Ofsted during 2016-2017. As an independent report on the school's quality and progress they reflect the long term progress both schools are making. Lakeside Primary Academy was graded as good during their Ofsted inspection in 2014-2015.

Financial Governance and Oversight:

The Trust has a strong financial governance oversight. The Trust has an annual internal audit and financial health check provided by Staffordshire County Council, as well as an external audit annually. This service reviews the financial systems and procedure in place and their findings are reported back to the Trustees and Directors of the trust.

- The finance committee received comprehensive termly reports
- SLAs are monitored for accuracy, value for money and effectiveness

- Financial controls are strong and effective
- Salaries are reviewed regularly
- Income and expenditure are proportionate for the services offered.

The Trust now offers an excellent Nursery provision at Lark Hall, and is extending this service to the Lakeside site. Both Lark Hall and Flax Hill sites cater for extended school provisions with Breakfast Club and After school care offered. Extra-curricular options are varied with a wide selection of options to undertake.

The Directors approve a balanced budget each year to ensure the viability of the Trust for the foreseeable future. Reserve levels are stable and offer the Trust financial stability.

Moving forwards, the Trust is actively involved with the local cluster of primary and secondary schools and it is hoped that further schools will join the MAT in the future.

Signed:..........

Mr Richard Lane Bsc (Hons)
Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date:.....30.09.2020.....